Claims

[c1]   1. A tool to prioritize opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, the tool comprising:

at least one module having a plurality of value drivers;

a plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers; and

a processor operative to calculate an opportunity value for each entered opportunity by a pre-determined function using said user-specified variables, to store the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity, and to prioritize the calculated opportunity values.

[c2]   2. A tool as in claim 1, wherein pre-determined weighting factors are applied to each of the plurality of value drivers.

[c3]   3. A tool as in claim 1, wherein the at least one module comprises a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity.

[c4]   4. A tool as in claim 3, wherein the marketability module includes value drivers relating to ownership of the entered opportunity.

[c5]   5. A tool as in claim 3, wherein the marketability module includes value drivers relating to available resources to be applied to development of the entered opportunity.

[c6]   6. A tool as in claim 1, wherein the at least one module comprises a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity.

[c7]   7. A tool as in claim 6, wherein the cost module includes value drivers relating to development cost and development time of the entered opportunity.

[c8]   8. A tool as in claim 6, wherein the cost module includes value drivers relating to implementation cost and implementation time of the entered opportunity.

[c9]

9. A tool as in claim 1, wherein the at least one module comprises an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered

opportunity.

[c10]   10. A tool as in claim 9, wherein the efficiency module includes value drivers relating to the efficiency of employee job, job knowledge, job tasks, and employee-customer relations for the entered opportunity.

[c11]   11. A tool as in claim 1, wherein the at least one module comprises an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and licensee customers.

[c12]   12. A tool as in claim 1, wherein the at least one module comprises an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

[c13]   13. A tool as in claim 2, wherein a form is published on an accessible information network and displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers.

[c14]   14. A tool as in claim 13, wherein the form is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each of the entered opportunity.

[c15]   15. A tool as in claim 14, wherein the database is operative to store the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers and to calculate a module score for at least one module and a total score for each of the entered opportunity.

[c16]   16. A tool as in claim 15, wherein the calculated total score is a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores for each of the entered opportunity.

[c17]   17. A tool as in claim 15, wherein the calculated module score is a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for each of the entered opportunity.

[c18]   18. A tool as in claim 15, wherein the database is operative to notify a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.

[c19]   19. A system to prioritize licensing opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, said tool comprising:

a plurality of modules each having a plurality of value drivers, said plurality of modules comprising:

a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity;

a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity;

an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity; and

an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and licensee customers;

a plurality of user-specified variables, linked to pre-determined weighting factors, in response to the value drivers; and

a processor operative to calculate an opportunity value for each entered opportunity by a pre-determined function using the user-specified variables, to store the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity, and to prioritize the calculated opportunity values.

[c20]   20. A system as in claim 19, wherein the marketability module includes value drivers relating to ownership of the entered opportunity and available resources to be applied to development of the entered opportunity.

[c21]   21. A system as in claim 19, wherein the cost module includes value drivers relating to development cost, development time, implementation cost, and implementation time of the entered opportunity.

[c22]   22. A system as in claim 19, wherein the efficiency module includes value drivers relating to the efficiency of employee job, job knowledge, job tasks, and employee-customer relations for the entered opportunity.

[c23]   23. A system as in claim 19, wherein the at least one module comprises an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

[c24]
           24. A system as in claim 19, wherein a form is published on an accessible information network, displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers, and

is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each entered opportunity.

[c25]   25. A system as in claim 24, wherein the database is operative to store the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers, to calculate a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for at least one module score and a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores used for total score determination, and to notify a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.

[c26]   26. A method for prioritizing opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, the method comprising the steps of:
providing at least one module having a plurality of value drivers;
providing user-specified variables in response to each of a plurality of value drivers;
calculating an opportunity value for each entered opportunity using a pre-determined function utilizing the user-specified variables;
storing the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity; and
prioritizing the calculated opportunity values.

[c27]   27. A method as in claim 26, further including the step of providing pre-determined weighting factors to be applied to each of the plurality of value drivers.

[c28]   28. A method as in claim 26, wherein the at least one module comprises a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity.

[c29]   29. A method as in claim 26, wherein the at least one module comprises a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity.

[c30]   30. A method as in claim 26, wherein the at least one module comprises an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity.

[c31]   31. A method claim 26, wherein the at least one module comprises an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and licensee customers.

[c32]   32. A method as in claim 26, wherein the at least one module comprises an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

[c33]   33. A method as in claim 27, further including the step of publishing a form on an accessible information network that displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers.

[c34]   34. A method as in claim 33, wherein the form is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each of the entered opportunity.

[c35]   35. A method as in claim 34, further including the steps of storing the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers and calculating a module score for at least one module and a total score for each of the entered opportunity.

[c36]   36. A method as in claim 35, wherein the calculated total score is a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores for each of the entered opportunity.

[c37]   37. A method as in claim 35, wherein the calculated module score is a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for each of the entered opportunity.

[c38]   38. A method as in claim 34, further including the step of notifying a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.

[c39]   39. A method to prioritize licensing opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, the method comprising the steps of: providing a plurality of modules each having a plurality of value drivers, the plurality of modules comprising:
a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability

of the entered opportunity;

a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity;

an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity; and

an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and licensee customers;

applying pre-determined weighting factors to each of the plurality of value drivers;

a published form on an accessible information network that displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers;

providing a plurality of user-specified variables, linked to pre-determined weighting factors, in response to the value drivers;

calculating a total score and module scores for each entered opportunity by a pre-determined function using the user-specified variables;

storing the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity;

notifying a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores; and

prioritizing the calculated opportunity values.

[c40] 40. A method as in claim 39, wherein the at least one module comprises an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

[c41] 41. A method as in claim 39, wherein the published form is a web enabled, multi-layer form that displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers and is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each entered opportunity.

[c42] 42. A method as in claim 41, wherein the database is operative to store the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers, to calculate a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for at least one module score and a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores used for total score determination, and to notify a recipient

about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.